

Madam Speaker, as the midterm election approaches, partisanship is at the extreme. But on the subject of the importance of ensuring the next generation of American political leaders, we understand that the global environment calls for us to have bipartisan support for this measure.

For 40 years, this organization has selected young political leaders in the United States, carefully balanced between Republicans and Democrats, to travel to many other nations to meet their foreign counterparts. These missions have helped young American political leaders in their understanding of the complexities of the economic, cultural and political climate of many countries and provide a global perspective for policymaking at the local, State and Federal levels.

Many of these young foreign leaders ultimately became major political figures in their home countries. The Foreign Minister of Australia is an alumnus, as are dozens of members of parliaments in many nations around the world.

I am pleased that the distinguished Ambassador of Hungary to the United States today, Ambassador Andras Simonyi, is another alumnus.

This organization is a cost-effective public diplomacy program that is sorely needed in this troubled international environment. I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 430, which recognizes the 40th anniversary of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and commends it for the work it has done over the past 40 years to prepare young political leaders for leadership roles in international relations and world affairs. As an alumnus of an ACYPL program and the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 430, I appreciate the House's consideration of this resolution as well as Chairman HYDE's efforts to bring it to the floor today.

When ACYPL began during the Cold War, it initially focused its efforts on improving young leaders' understanding of Western Europe. In fact, when I participated in an ACYPL program in the 1970s, I traveled to the former Soviet Union. However, as geopolitical conditions have changed over the past 40 years, ACYPL has expanded its bipartisan programs to include over 90 nations throughout the world, including the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Hemisphere, East Asia, and the Pacific Rim.

As technology and trade continue to advance, the world will likely become even more interconnected. Thus, the need for our young leaders to better understand foreign governments and cultures will continue to be important, along with the bipartisan international exchange programs, educational forums, and leadership training ACYPL provides to prepare young political leaders for future positions of responsibility in local, state, and federal government. Accordingly, I congratulate ACYPL on its 40th anniversary, commend it for its important work, and wish it continued success.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this House concurrent reso-

lution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 430.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMENDING UNITED KINGDOM FOR ITS EFFORTS IN THE WAR ON TERROR

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 989) commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 989

Whereas on August 10, 2006, British police arrested 24 people for plotting to commit acts of terror on trans-Atlantic flights;

Whereas as of August 31, 2006, 12 citizens have been charged for their roles in the terror plot, including eight citizens charged with conspiracy to murder;

Whereas United Kingdom authorities acted swiftly and decisively to prevent a horrific attack on scores of innocent people;

Whereas the United Kingdom and the United States have been close allies in not only two World Wars and Operation Desert Storm, but also the Global War on Terror;

Whereas the intelligence and military communities of the United Kingdom and the United States continue to work together to win the Global War on Terror;

Whereas the threat of terrorism is a grave concern for all nations, regardless of geographical or other boundaries;

Whereas acts of terror have profoundly affected citizens across the globe, including those in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and

Whereas victory in the Global War on Terror is a necessity to ensure the liberty and safety of all people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the law enforcement authorities of the United Kingdom on their action to prevent a terrible attack from occurring;

(2) commends the intelligence community of the United Kingdom for its outstanding work in identifying the citizens seeking to carry out this plot;

(3) condemns those that would use acts of violence against innocent civilians to spread a message of hate and intolerance; and

(4) urges the allies of the United States in the Global War on Terror to remain steadfast in the execution of this important mission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 989, a resolution that I introduced that commends the United Kingdom for its efforts in the war on terror and for their work in stopping a terrorist plot in July that could have resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians.

Madam Speaker, since the attack on the United States on 9/11, the United Kingdom has been our closest ally in the war on terrorism. In this effort, there has been extremely close cooperation between American and British police and intelligence agencies.

In addition, Britain has stood side by side with us both in Iraq and in Afghanistan. The British still have more than 7,000 troops in Iraq, and 118 British soldiers have lost their lives in that war. In Afghanistan, 40 soldiers from the United Kingdom have been killed fighting the Taliban and those warlords. Currently, Britain heads the NATO-led international security assistance force in Afghanistan, and British troops have been involved in particularly heavy fighting in the southern part of Afghanistan.

In both of these countries, Iraq and Afghanistan, Britain is the largest contributor of troops of any country after the United States. The American people will not soon forget the sacrifice of our British allies in those wars.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 989 focuses on the outstanding work of law enforcement authorities in the United Kingdom in preventing the planned terrorist attack that would have blown up in midair multiple transatlantic flights from London to the United States. This plot was thwarted by British police and intelligence officials on August 10, 2006, with the arrest of 24 people.

In addition, the resolution cites terrorism as a grave concern for all nations, regardless of boundaries, as terrorist attacks have killed innocent people in countries such as Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Spain, Turkey and, of course, the United Kingdom and here in the United States.

Britain has been a close, long-time friend of the United States, and now they are standing with us in the war against terrorism. It is entirely appropriate for the House of Representatives to recognize their friendship and contribution in this war.

This resolution was approved unanimously by the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats of the House International Relations Committee on September 20. I would like to thank the subcommittee chairman, Chairman GALLEGLY, and the International Relations Committee chairman, Chairman HYDE, for moving this

resolution very quickly through the committee, and I urge its passage by the full House.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend my good friend from Texas, a distinguished member of the International Relations Committee, for presenting this resolution, and I want to echo his words.

The United States and the United Kingdom are the closest of allies for a reason: We share an unshakeable commitment to freedom and democracy. As the successful British action against the recent terrorist plot demonstrates, we also share a deep conviction that we must remain constantly vigilant against those who seek to destroy our way of life through violence and terrorism.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the support of my good friend from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Madam Speaker, Winston Churchill once said that the United Kingdom and the United States are two people separated by a common language. As that may be true, we are not separated but united in our determination and we speak in concert in our mission, to win this war on international terrorism.

To the people of the United Kingdom, we, as Americans, are very grateful for their support.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 989, commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror, and for other purposes.

United Kingdom and the United States have been close allies in not only two World Wars and Operation Desert Storm, but also the Global War on Terror. We are cousins and we are friends, with a common history and common cause.

On September 11, 2001, the United Kingdom reached out to us in sympathy and friendship, and joined us in facing the emerging threat of religious fundamental extremism.

Sadly, on July 7, 2005, we reached out in turn as Britain suffered a terrorist attack on its London Underground and a bus, killing 56 people including four suicide bombers. As they suffered, so did we suffer, remembering the pain and confusion, the shock and the remorse.

We have struggled to find sound policy to protect our homelands, and have stood shoulder to shoulder to develop effective strategies. Though we earn the criticism of many nations, including that of the United Kingdom, the conversation remains honest and open.

The averted threat this past summer in fact illustrates the necessity of a global strategy,

as well as the partnership of the United States and the United Kingdom.

On August 10, 2006, British police arrested 24 people for plotting to commit acts of terror on trans-Atlantic flights with the help of the Pakistan Government. As of August 31, 2006, 12 citizens have been charged for their roles in the terror plot, including eight citizens charged with conspiracy to murder. This is only the latest demonstration that terrorism is not restrained by borders. Our gratitude for this heroic and brave effort can only be expressed in our ongoing perseverance and commitment to eradicating threats such as these.

We are brothers in arms, united by history and by creed. I wish the same blessings for the United Kingdom as I do for our own nation—safety, security, prosperity, and wisdom to make decisions that are forward thinking, democratic, and just.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and honor the accomplishments of the United Kingdom in the War on Terror.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 989, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY OF LEBANON AND THE LEBANESE PEOPLE

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1017) affirming support for the sovereignty and security of Lebanon and the Lebanese people, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 1017

Whereas Lebanon's remarkable Cedar Revolution led to the withdrawal of Syrian occupation troops in April 2005, the most significant step toward true Lebanese independence and sovereignty since the outbreak of civil war in 1975;

Whereas the Cedar Revolution reached a dramatic crescendo on March 14, 2005, when one million Lebanese demonstrated in Beirut's Martyrs Square demanding freedom and independence and an end to the Syrian occupation;

Whereas true Lebanese independence and sovereignty was not fully achieved even after the Syrian troop withdrawal for many reasons, including especially the apparent ongoing presence of Syrian security personnel in Lebanon, an ongoing assassination campaign against Lebanese public figures who oppose appeasement of Syria, and Hizballah's control and militarization of southern Lebanon;

Whereas, on August 12, 2006, during the fighting between Israel and Hizballah, the Government of Lebanon for the first time in decades called for the deployment of the Lebanese armed forces throughout Lebanese territory "such that there will be no weapons or authority other than that of the Lebanese state";

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the fighting, authorizes an enhanced United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to "accompany and support the Lebanese armed forces as they deploy throughout the (Lebanese) South", a process which is currently underway;

Whereas UNSCR 1701 also calls for the enhanced UNIFIL force, at the "request" of the Government of Lebanon, to assist the Government of Lebanon "to secure its borders and other entry points to prevent the entry in Lebanon without its consent of arms or related materiel";

Whereas the Lebanese armed forces are inadequate to the task of interdicting arms-smuggling along the Syrian border without the assistance of an international force;

Whereas the Government of Lebanon has not yet requested the assistance of the enhanced UNIFIL force on the Syrian border;

Whereas Syria is trying to intimidate Lebanon from requesting UNIFIL assistance on the border, with threatening statements such as the Syrian leader's warning that such deployment would be deemed "hostile"; and

Whereas it is manifestly in the interests of the international community, which seeks peace and stability in the Middle East, to support the full sovereignty and security of Lebanon: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the many Lebanese who continue to adhere steadfastly to the principles of the Cedar Revolution;

(2) commends the democratically-elected Government of Lebanon for its critical and courageous decision to deploy the Lebanese armed forces, for the first time in decades, to Lebanon's border with Israel;

(3) affirms that the clear intention of the international community, as expressed in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, is that the flow of weapons to Hizballah should cease and that Hizballah should be disarmed;

(4) calls on all countries, and particularly countries through which Iranian-supplied materiel passes en route from Iran to Hizballah, to take every possible measure to prevent the transfer of arms to Hizballah, so as to contribute to the stability of Lebanon and of the region and to the enforcement of the sovereignty of the Government of Lebanon over its own territory, as required by UNSCR 1701;

(5) calls on the international community to monitor the compliance of Iran and Syria with the arms embargo on Hizballah, as these two countries are the principal suppliers of weaponry to Hizballah;

(6) calls on Iran and Syria to cease supporting Hizballah with funds and arms;

(7) condemns Syria's ongoing overt and covert campaign of intimidation against Lebanon;

(8) condemns the Syrian leader's outrageous claim that the deployment of international peace-keeping forces on the Lebanese-Syrian border would be "hostile" against Syria;

(9) urges the Government of Lebanon to request without delay international assistance including, but not limited to, military forces, as needed, on the Lebanese border with Syria so as to prevent the re-supply of weapons to Hizballah and to ensure the full